(b) whether the state Government has made a request for this direct flight in view of development of their IT sector; and

(c) if so, the status of the case and the time-frame within which it would be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, upto the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

Expansion of international air services

f2893.PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI RUDRANARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to increase air services to foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of air services to America and Britain at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRl PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Traffic rights for operation of international air services are specified in our bilateral Air Services Agreements with various countries and are reviewed from time to time as part of on-going process depending on traffic demand, balance of benefit to our carriers, overall interest of national economy and diplomatic/political considerations. Actual operations including route selections are, however, left to the commercial judgement of airlines.

(c) As per the existing air services arrangement with USA, both sides

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

can designate any number of airlines for operaiton of any number of services to any point in the territory of the other country with full intermediate and beyong traffic rights.

Under the India-UK air services arrangments, both sides can designate any number of airlines. The designated airlines of India is entitled to operate upto 56 services/week between Delhi/Mumbai and London Heathrow and any number of flights on any other route between the two countries. Reciprocally, the designated airlines of UK are entitled to operate upto 56 services/week between London Heathrow and Delhi/Mumbai. For other routes between the two countries, they are entitled to operate upto 7 services/week to/from each airport in India except in case of Bangalore and Chennai, where, the capacity limit is 14 services/week.

Installation of aviation obstruction warning lights

2894. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that aviation-obstruction warning lights which properly guide the aircrafts are not installed at the airports in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that inferior quality lights are installed at the airports without proper checking; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government for proper checking of such lights for the safety of the aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The Aviation obstruction warning lights used for providing the information of the presence of obstructions and warning to the pilots are already installed on the identified obstacles in and around the vicinity of the airports in the country.

(b) No, Sir. The lights installed do have the quality as per the specification laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

(c) Does not arise.